



**Testimony
Elizabeth Gara
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)
Before the Government Administration & Elections Committee
March 16, 2009**

**RE: HB-6375, An Act Concerning Review and Termination of Certain
Boards and Commissions**

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) opposes Section 1(42) of HB-6375, which would eliminate the Invasive Plants Council.

Every year, the introduction of harmful, non-native species into the U.S. has been increasing. Collectively, these nuisance species make tremendous impacts to different things valued by many Americans. Ultimately, the cost of invasive species (terrestrial and aquatic) in the United States amounts to more than \$137 billion each year.

Invasive non-native plants are a concern to the state's water companies because they can grow rapidly, are very prolific and can create permanent and serious problems for the public water supplies that are very costly to mitigate. For example, certain species clog intake valves that impede the flow of water. Other species displace native plants that are important to source water protection efforts.

The Invasive Plants Council has been instrumental in developing and implementing enforcement tools to help eradicate invasive plants. This has been very helpful to the source water protection efforts of Connecticut's public water suppliers. We therefore respectfully request that you delete the provision from the bill which would eliminate the council.

The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWWA) is an association of private, municipal and regional public water supply utilities serving more than 500,000 customers, or population of about 2½ million people, located throughout Connecticut.